

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office

March 15, 1999      LB 150, 261, 608

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD:      LB 608 is advanced. The call is raised.  
Mr. Clerk, LB 150.

CLERK:      Mr. President, Legislative Bill 150, a bill originally introduced by Senator Chris Peterson. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 7 of this year, at that time referred to the Transportation Committee. The bill was advanced to General File. There are committee amendments pending.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD:      Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Chris Peterson, you're recognized to open on LB 150.

SENATOR C. PETERSON:      Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor, members of the body. LB 150 has been referred to, quite often, as the slamming bill, and so let me just briefly explain what the slamming process does, and that simply changes a telephone subscriber's preferred telephone carrier without the subscriber's knowledge or consent. There were two bills that were introduced in the Transportation Committee. My bill was LB 150 and there was LB 261, which is Senator Landis' bill, very similar bills with the same intent, and I would like to give you the reason why we're doing LB 150 instead of LB 261. I won the toss. That was basically how we determined it, because we both had the same goals in mind, and I want to thank Senator Landis and his staff because we've spent a lot of time on this. We've worked with the industry on this as well as the committee and the committee counsel, so this bill has had certainly a lot of input from a lot of people on it. A brief background, there is, as you're well-aware of, a lot of competition for long distance companies and they give a variety of reasons to switch. And, in addition, because of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, we will also have a lot of local competition coming in. So I'll quickly give you some definitions that we will probably be using throughout the discussion on the bill. First off, the local exchange carrier, that is your local service carrier. The Inter-LATA and Intra-LATA, LATA is the local access transport area, which is one of several, about 200 areas established after the AT & T divestiture. This deals with your long distance carrier. A subscriber is simply the person who has made the arrangement to have a carrier give them their service. Authorized carrier is the carrier that you have the agreement with. Unauthorized carrier is basically the company that is